



U.S. Mission to the OSCE

PRESS RELEASE

March 17, 2010



Ian Kelly Arrives as New U.S. Ambassador to the OSCE

Ian C. Kelly, the new U.S. Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), with the rank of Ambassador, arrived in Vienna on March 17, 2010. He was sworn in as ambassador on March 15, having been confirmed by the U.S. Senate on March 10.

During his February 2, 2010 hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Mr. Kelly noted that he was “particularly honored” to have been considered for the position of U.S. Representative to the OSCE this year as:

2010 marks the 35th anniversary of the agreement that founded the organization that became the OSCE – the Helsinki Final Act. At the height of the Cold War, the 35 countries of the trans-Atlantic region pledged to take steps to promote confidence and transparency, and reduce mistrust. Most importantly in the Final Act, for the first time, a security agreement recognized the “universal significance of human rights and fundamental freedoms as essential factors for peace and cooperation.” The OSCE has enshrined the idea that peace *among* states was dependent on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms *within* states. Or, as Secretary Clinton said [on January 29, 2010] in Paris, “true security entails not only peaceful relations between states, but opportunities and rights for the individuals who live within them.” ... [My mission is] to revitalize our engagement with the OSCE and to help make the historic promise of the Helsinki Final Act a reality for all people throughout the [56] participating States.

Ambassador Kelly is a Senior Foreign Service Officer and had served as Spokesperson for the U.S. Department of State since May 2009. From January to May 2009, he was acting Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau for European and Eurasian Affairs, with responsibility for Russia, Ukraine,

Moldova and Belarus; and from 2007 to early 2009, he was the Director of the Office of Russian Affairs. Before that, from 2004-2007, he was Counselor for Public Affairs at the U.S. Mission to NATO. From 1994-1996, Mr. Kelly served as the State Department's Director of Democratic Initiatives to the Newly Independent States, coordinating the activities of nearly a dozen federal agencies involved in democracy building in the former Soviet Union. In addition to NATO, he has been posted overseas in Rome, Ankara, Vienna, Belgrade, Moscow, Leningrad and Milan.

Mr. Kelly holds a Bachelor's degree from St. Olaf College (Northfield, Minnesota), a Masters degree from Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois), and a Doctorate from Columbia University (New York City, N.Y.).

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